

The Panama Railroad and the Postmaster General.

No careful observer of the times in which we live can be faultless in the pending question of the Panama Railroad. General and the Panama Railroad Company. There has appeared a despatch from Washington, dated May 12, containing the intelligence that the President has sent a special message to Congress, enclosing the correspondence between the parties, and that the Postmaster General has yielded to the urgent and earnest entreaties of the company, "claiming a greater amount than that heretofore allowed for carrying the mails across the Isthmus." The Postmaster General recommends that he be authorized to contract with that company for such conveyance of the mails, at a price not exceeding \$40,000 per annum; also, that he be allowed to begin a semi-monthly service to California, via Nicaragua, at a price not exceeding \$200,000 per annum.

The "correspondence" has thus become public property, and we have examined it in advance of its official publication. It is a pity that it could not have been scattered as widely as the despatch we have alluded to. It is, in fact, a very interesting document, and one which will be read with much interest by the public.

A law was passed March 3, 1851, in conformity to a recommendation of the Postmaster General of December, 1850, directing him "to enter into contract, or to make suitable arrangements, for transporting the mail between Panama and California with regularity and despatch, provided the rate of compensation shall not exceed twenty cents per pound, and shall cease on the establishment of any new route between the two oceans offering greater despatch and economy."

Under this the mails have been carried at 22 cents per pound, and we have a strong impression that all usage and precedent at the capital justify this law to direct that if the mails were carried by weight they should be paid for at 22 cents per pound.

On the 25th of March, 1855, the Postmaster General wrote the company, alleging that they had reduced their charges for express goods, and that he could no longer pay 22 cents per pound. He offered to pay 18 cents per pound—three cents more than the maximum rate charged by the company for express goods. He conceded to the "national importance of the work." He appears to have had an erroneous impression that the general charges on express goods from dock to dock was 10 cents per pound—this being the rate from city to city, and not including lightage and other charges.

The railroad company refused to accept this rate, and in the correspondence which has passed on the subject they state explicitly that Great Britain pays them 22 cents per pound for mail matter, that for several years—while the road was incomplete—they paid out for mail hire nearly the whole of the amount they received from the department at this rate, and that they regarded the company as entitled to this rate if paid by the pound.

Beginning with the quarter ending 31st March, 1855, the Postmaster General ordered the payment of their account at 18 cents per pound, for the reason that he would not pay more. The difference between 18 and 22 cents per pound amounted, on the 31st December, 1855, to over \$15,000, the other money received by the railroad company being acknowledged as payment on account.

During the early discussion of this question a committee of the Panama Company waited upon the Postmaster General, and informed him that there was force in his objections to allowing the weight of the mails to go on increasing while they received pay at a rate per pound. They proposed to make a contract for a fair, reasonable sum per annum, which should cover the transportation of any bulk or weight of mails he might send over the road. They left him with the understanding that he would make a per annum contract, and at such rate of compensation as would be satisfactory to the company.

Under their charter they could not diminish the rate per pound for our government, without doing so for all other governments. They were willing to accept a limit, and for a long while regarded the matter as adjusted, and that the four cents per pound would be accounted for when the contract should be arranged.

Time wore on, and it became evident that this contract would not be made. The company applied in very decided terms for their back pay, \$18,000. In reply, Mr. Campbell referred to his declaration months back that he would pay only eighteen cents per pound.

The company at this time denied his right to give despatch orders, changing a mutual understanding under an express act of Congress, and thus to enforce views of his own, to which they had never assented. This was not more than they had been in the habit of receiving, but the price given up. They insisted upon their payment. It was not until the 10th of May that the sequel in the message to Congress to which we have alluded.

There is more than one issue in all this. No one party to any contract has the right to change its terms, and adhere to his own views against the protest of the other party. Opinions cannot differ as to this. Tyranny of executive officers over contractors is as odious as any other tyranny. We mistake the character of those who, glancing this great enterprise if they will for a moment but to such dictation. We think Mr. Campbell abandoned wisely this pretension.

There is another and broader issue. Whether the price of twenty-two cents per pound made the pay excessive. If so, was the plan proposed by the company a remedy, and why was it not adopted? The reasons for a fair annual payment are conclusive. The press must not be fettered—its power must not be circumscribed. Especially should all facilities for correspondence be extended to our far off brethren on the Pacific. The letter mails form a small portion of the mail bags, and the revenue of the Department is increased by the sale of the newspapers. The revenue of the Department is increased by the sale of the newspapers.

We are in favor of the company's plan, and we think it would be a fair annual payment. The charter of the railroad company compels them to treat all alike. Great Britain has been carrying the mails across the Isthmus for many years, and the Postmaster General recommends a gross annual sum, so that he appears now to agree with us in this. Neither the company nor the government of the railroad company were antagonistic to the press.

Our view should extend a little beyond the present, or a concession of three cents per pound on account of the increased expense of the road. We have seen from New York, and went to the Florida Fields to see a duel fought between two of them. It originated in a fight among sporting men at a public house in the Bowery, on the night previous, in which one of them had a piece of his nose bitten off. Thomas Hyer was one of the party; and the other, a man named John, was the other. The fight was fought in the Florida Fields, and the result was a draw.

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City Intelligence.

STORY OF A YOUNG MAN.—A young English girl, 18 years of age, named Mary Ann, a domestic at the house of Mr. Coulter, No. 27 1/2 Chrystie street, died at that place yesterday afternoon, from the effects of arsenic and the bitter oil of almonds, taken by her for the purpose of committing suicide. The deceased after taking the fatal poison was found by her mother, who called in a physician, and the steps of house No. 76 Bayard street. She was at once removed to the house of her employer, where, notwithstanding the efforts of the physician, she died soon after. The deceased has for some time past acted in a very strange manner, and it is believed that she was suffering from a derangement of the mind. Her father, a poor man, is now in the hospital, and is expected to die.

THE CARLISLE GARDEN AFFAIR.—In another column is a communication from Mr. Lorenz, agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, contradicting the statement of Mr. John A. Kennedy, relative to the disturbance at Castle Garden a few days since. Mr. Lorenz also states that the company has represented as prohibited from selling tickets to emigrate in the Garden, after refusing to pay twenty per cent commission to the Commissioners of Emigration. He says the prices demanded at Castle Garden for the night of the 10th inst. were, that the affair on the 10th inst. was in order to test the equality of the Commissioners' acts relative to compelling emigrants to pay for the privilege of leaving the country. The statement of Mr. Lorenz is in direct contradiction to the statement of Mr. Kennedy.

THE ABE IN JONES' WOOD.—Workmen have engaged the past week telling the tall tales and nicknames, the chestnuts and sweet goods, together with the unpropitious and unpropitious incidents of the week. The workmen have engaged the past week telling the tall tales and nicknames, the chestnuts and sweet goods, together with the unpropitious and unpropitious incidents of the week.

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The M. dora Imogene Mystery—Captain Palmer's Body Recovered.

Our readers will doubtless recollect the circumstances connected with the mysterious disappearance of Captain Palmer, of the schooner *Eudora Imogene*, last fall, the scuttling of the vessel, the flight and arrest of the negro cook, and the other particulars of the strange affair, which were minutely given in the columns of the *HERALD* at that period. They will likewise recollect the circumstances of the discovery of the body of the missing Captain Palmer, and the subsequent arrest and incarceration by the authorities of this city, upon the charge of mutiny, for which he has yet to answer. The heretofore inexplicable mystery which has surrounded this singular affair is now perhaps about to be cleared up. The body of a man was found yesterday afternoon at Hunter's Island, by Mr. Alexander Flanagan. It was entirely naked, about five feet ten or eleven inches in height, and in every particular answers the description of Captain Palmer. The front teeth of the corpse are missing—Capt. P. had lost his front teeth previous to his disappearance. The appearance of the body indicates that a bloody murder has been committed. There is a contusion on the left side of the skull, evidently a wound made with a hatchet. The left leg down to the ankle is bare of flesh, and it is conjectured that a rope had been made fast to it, probably to assist in sinking the body after the murder had been committed.

Mr. Flanagan and other citizens had the body conveyed to the City Island, where it now awaits the action of the coroner.

Dramatic and Musical Matters.

The present is announced as the last week of the Opera, as the company go to Boston. The opera for this evening is the "Semiramide" of Rossini. The cast is a very strong one, but the occasion is made more interesting by the appearance of the Mlle. Vestrali since her return from Mexico. She performs the role of Arsace, in which she first appeared in New York, and divided the honors of the night with Grisi. La Grange, Vestrali and Badiali make a fine trio, and Marek deserves something from the musical public for the vigor and spirit with which he has conducted his campaign.

The programme for this evening at the theatres is very good, all around. Read it, and select for yourself. At the BROADWAY THEATRE, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams commence the fourth week of their engagement, and produce a new piece, "It is our Home." Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. C. Fisher, and Miss Pond, sustain the principal characters. "Our Girl" and "The Revue" will also be given.

AT LAURA KENT'S VAUDEVILLE, a new piece called "Dance or Hands not Hearts," will be produced this evening, with Miss Kewen, Jordan, Dickinson and Miss Reynolds in the principal parts. In addition to this, Mr. Wilkins' local comedy, "My Wife's Mirror," will be acted for the second time.

AT WALLACK'S THEATRE, "The Hunchback" is announced, with Mr. Wallack as Master Walter, and Mrs. Hoey as Julia; Messrs. Lester, Dyott and Miss Gannon, are also in the cast. Poor Philodilly is in the farce. At BURTON'S THEATRE, "David Copperfield" is announced. Mr. C. Howard and Mrs. Hough make their first appearance here this season. The farce "Calcutta as a Nigger's Game," will be given by the company.

At the BOWERY THEATRE, Mr. Malone Raymond and Miss Kate Saxon commence an engagement here this evening, appearing in "Love and Mystery" and "The Honest Attorney." Mr. Waldron has a benefit on Wednesday, and we hope it will be a good one. At the BROADWAY VAUDEVILLE, the Juvenile Comedians appear in the "Nad's Queens."

At WOOD'S MINSTRELS, a good concert programme and a new farce.

Mr. KELLER'S VAUDEVILLE, at Empire Hall, have drawn large houses during the week. He has engaged Madame Lorraine and a Glee Club to fill up the time between the pictures with a capital concert programme. Madame Lorraine is a charming ballad singer. Mr. Keller announces several new pictures for this evening.

Mr. FLEMING announces that his drawing room entertainments will commence at the Apollo Rooms on the 10th.

The annual election of officers of the American Dramatic Fund Association will take place to-day.

THOMAS HYER announces a grand concert at the Academy next Saturday. It will be a novel affair.

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ADDITIONAL FROM EUROPE.

Our London, Madrid and Rome Correspondence.

THE BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD.

Gen. Walker's Case in Parliament.

Lord Palmerston Denies that he Promised Aid to the Costa Ricans.

THE BAY ISLANDS QUESTION.

The Spanish-American League Against the United States.

Buenaventura Vivo's Revelations Continued.

Ten Thousand English Troops about to Sail for Canada.

Our European Mail brought by the American contains some interesting extracts of news, which we publish to-day, with the letters of our correspondents in London, Madrid and Rome. A graphic description of the naval review at Spithead is given, as well as a report of the proceedings in Parliament on the Central American question. The case of Gen. Walker is discussed, and the effect that England was not disposed to admit military aid to Costa Rica, is explained, under the circumstances.

The following American seamen were lost from the bark *Blake*, of Liverpool, during the progress of a dreadful storm which overtook her on 6th of March, and continued to 20th of same month. The *Blake*, Captain Edward Rudolf, sailed from ship harbor, Miami, with a cargo of pitch pine, bound to Costa Rica, on the 8th of February, with a fair wind and good weather. The names of the men lost are—Henry E. Johnston, of New York; Joseph Thompson, of New York; John Grummett, of New York; William Brown, of New York; and Charles Brown, of Baltimore. The *Blake* was last seen on the 10th of March, and is presumed to be wrecked.

The London *Times*, of 24th of April, says:—Although it is understood to be the intention of government to despatch seven regiments of the line from the east to Canada, the order is said not to be compulsory on individual regiments, but that battalions for such destinations are to be composed of volunteers from the whole army. The aggregate strength of the regiments so formed will be about 10,000 strong. With regard to the shipping of ammunition from Woolwich for Canada, the war authorities have decided that, as a very large quantity now stored in the Crimea will have to be removed, the most expedient plan will be to convey it thence by the route of the Atlantic, and to transport the troops by the Canadian route. The Department at Woolwich has resolved orders to discontinue the preparing and casing any powder and ammunition there for transmission to Canada, as directed a short time back, the order having been rescinded.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 14th of April contains a despatch from Gen. Liders, giving an account of an interview with the commanders-in-chief of the allied armies in the Crimea, whom he afterwards invited to dinner. The Russian general gave a toast the health of the Emperor, Queen Victoria, and King of Sardinia. Marshal Plessier proposed the health of the Emperor Alexander, and in a long speech expressed his veneration for his Majesty, and his warm sympathies for the Russian troops. A great number of officers and soldiers of the army visited the Russian camp. Gen. Liders adds that, on the whole, great cordiality prevailed on both sides.

The *Independence Belge* throws some doubts on the authenticity of the speech alleged to have been delivered at Moscow by the Czar.

Accounts from Teheran state that American travellers were busy trying to convince the Persian government of the utility of a treaty with the United States, especially under existing circumstances.

The returns from the Bank of England, for the week ending the 10th of April, show the following results, when compared with the previous week:—

Public deposits, £2,000,753 Decrease, £473,383
Deposits, £1,156,790 Increase, £407,078
On the other side of the account, £40

Government securities, £10,111,533 Increase, £190,390
Deposits, £1,156,790 Increase, £407,078
Notes unemployed, £3,668,600 Decrease, £22,440

The amount of notes in circulation is £20,014,005, and the amount of gold and silver in the hands of the public is £2,000,753, showing a decrease of £222,935, when compared with the preceding return.

A correspondent from Canton, China, writes as follows to the *Univers*, of Paris, under date of January 12:—

A few days ago a placard was posted on the walls of Canton, in the United States Consulate. It was an official act, but every one was convinced that the bill had been posted at the instigation of the mandarins. Here we have seen the Chinese government, in the person of (Parker), has been for a long time in a struggle of force with our city; his acts there were upright and humble. A few years since he lived in a European dwelling in Canton, and he was even heard to say that he was a native of the poor people; but since then he has caused a great deal of trouble, which has rendered the habitation of the street very disagreeable to the Chinese people.

For some reason or other Lord Byron did not return the calls of young Dallas, whose Yankee blood was not so much softened by his education as it was by his lordship. One day, meeting a mutual friend, Byron inquired, "Well, what has become of that republican and his newspaper?" The friend replied, "He has been in the 'Mansion House' dinner, he has been run down by calls and invitations from the highest in the land, which he has refused to accept. He has been in the 'Mansion House' dinner, he has been run down by calls and invitations from the highest in the land, which he has refused to accept. He has been in the 'Mansion House' dinner, he has been run down by calls and invitations from the highest in the land, which he has refused to accept."

The Americans here are getting anxious to know what the Convention at Cincinnati are going to do. The story here is that the South are going for General Pierce, and the North for General Fremont. It is thought that the Convention will be a very interesting one.

The Congress at Paris has broken up, and the treaty of peace is looking out. The Black Sea is declared open to the commerce of all nations, and the Danube is to be free to the commerce of all nations. The Congress at Paris has broken up, and the treaty of peace is looking out. The Black Sea is declared open to the commerce of all nations, and the Danube is to be free to the commerce of all nations.

The brilliant naval review at Spithead took place with "Queen's weather," and without accident. It is true the Honorable members of the House of Commons are in a great ill humor because the arrangements for their comfort were not perfect, but that is the only mishap I have to enumerate.

After his holiday, Parliament has resumed its labors. Two or three questions were put last night relative to American affairs. The veteran Lord Lyndhurst expressed his opinion that it was early day to attempt to call attention to the rights of the state of Italy, and the demand military occupation by Austria of extensive portions of that country beyond her own limits, thereby creating great and general dissatisfaction, disturbing the political equilibrium, and endangering the peace of Europe.

On the same subject—The Earl of Clarendon moved for copies of reports and correspondence relating to the occupation of Parma by Austrian troops, and the assumption of the government of the Duchy by Austrian authorities.

The Earl of Clarendon explained that by a convention between the governments of Parma and Modena, and the Duke of Parma, and during the subsequent disorders the Duke declared the province in a state of siege, and that the convention, called in the aid of Austria, had been kept in Parma since 1849.

Believe me, we have not heard the end of this Italian question. General La Marmora, in an address to the Sardinian army, said that though the peace had disappointed their hopes of glory, it was satisfactory that they might be of service to Italy. What England will do with the 3,000 men of the Italian Legion now at Malta I do not know.

These men, all Italians, are already very efficient soldiers, and would exceedingly relieve a "gap" at Naples and King Bomba, and still more relieve the head of the House of Hapsburg—the man who has granted the concordat and placed his neck under the foot of the Pope.

The text of the treaty of peace of Paris, in four articles, has found its way into the London papers. So much of the contents of the treaty had already been set out, that it provides but little information. We have the integrity of Turkey and of the Ottoman Principality.

Use, neutralization of the Black Sea, dismantling of all Russian fortresses on its shores, free navigation of the Danube, civil and political rights guaranteed to all Turkish subjects.

But the great result of the war in the end, which has been put once for all to the advance, slow but sure, of Russia has been making eastward.

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